

Emergency Regulations
Governing the General Achievement Diploma
(As required by House Bill 1464 as passed by the General Assembly)

Requirements for the General Achievement Diploma

1. The General Achievement Diploma is intended to provide a diploma option for high school dropouts and individuals who exit high school without a diploma. It should not be a first option for high school students.
2. Individuals who are at least 18 years of age and not enrolled in public school or not otherwise meeting the compulsory school attendance requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia §22.1-254 shall be eligible to earn the General Achievement Diploma. Diploma candidates may be individuals who are of the age¹ to enroll in a public school whether they choose to enroll or not; or individuals who because of their age are not eligible to enroll in a public school.
3. The required number of standard units of credit may be earned by enrolling in
 - a. a public school if the individual meets the age requirements,
 - b. a community college or other institution of higher education,
 - c. an adult high school program, or
 - d. correspondence, distance learning, and online courses.
4. Diploma candidates shall participate in GED preparation.
5. Credit and assessment requirements for graduation with a General Achievement Diploma:

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Assessment Required
English	4	
Mathematics ²	3	
Science ³	2	
History and Social Sciences ⁴	2	
Electives ⁵	9	
TOTAL	20	Achieve a passing score on the GED examination

¹A person of school age is one who has not reached twenty years of age on or before August 1 of the school year (§ 22.1-1.) or any individual through twenty-one years of age who is eligible for mandated services in a program of special education designed to educate and train children with disabilities (§ 22.1-213).

²Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content in mathematics courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any other Board-recognized diploma.

³ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content in science courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any other Board-recognized diploma.

⁴Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. History and one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. Government in courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any other Board-recognized diploma.

⁵Courses shall include at least two sequential electives in an area of concentration or specialization, which may include career and technical education and training.